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**MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED FOR SELLING
BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that Jose Turbi Matos was sentenced today to four months in federal prison for selling birth certificates and social security cards. Matos is 32-years-old and lives in Manchester.

Matos was indicted by a federal grand jury on November 3, 2004, on four counts of selling citizenship papers and social security cards. From April through September of 2004, Matos sold sets of genuine Puerto Rican birth certificates and social security cards for \$800 and \$1,300. These documents had been legitimately issued to United States citizens, but Matos acquired them and sold the documents to other individuals. Matos pled guilty to all four counts on February 14, 2005.

“The black market sale of identification documents is a common thread in immigration crimes, identity theft, fraud, and a host of other serious offenses,” said United States Attorney Tom Colantuono. “It enables crooks to commit crimes or to evade arrest and prosecution for crimes they have already committed. Cutting off the supply of these documents and punishing the traffickers is key in preventing these crimes and protecting the safety and security of New Hampshire citizens.”

Matos is a citizen of the Dominican Republic. He was granted permanent resident alien status in the United States in 1999. As a result of this conviction, Matos is subject to deportation proceedings before the United States Immigration Court.

This case was investigated by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Homeland Security and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.